

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Chen et al.
Serial No. : 10/719,477
Filed : November 21, 2003
Title : AUTOANTIBODIES SPECIFIC FOR B7-H1

Art Unit : 1645
Examiner : Ilia I. Ouspenski

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 21, 2006, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group III drawn to the embodiment of a method of diagnosis as these claims read on the species of rheumatoid arthritis. The election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group IV, as well as those of Group III, be examined in the instant application. Claim 19 (of Group III) and claim 25 (of Group IV) are very closely related. The steps in the two claims are extremely similar with the major difference being a small one, i.e., step (c) in claim 19 involves "detecting" and in claim 25 involves "measuring the level of" one or more B7-H1-specific antibodies in a sample. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of this small difference, the two claim groups cannot be considered independent and, for the same reason, it would not be burdensome to search the claims of the two groups together.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

May 4, 2006

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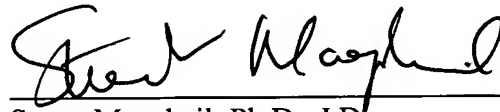
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07039-443001 / MMV-02-065

Enclosed is a request for an automatic extension of time and a check in payment of the extension of time. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 07039-443001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/4/06



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